

February 22, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Kathleen Sasso and I live in East Lyme, CT. My nephew Patrick is an individual with a physical and intellectual disability. It is a miracle to his family that he will be graduating from high school in May. His family relies on support from the State and their public school system for many services. I am testifying on the impact of the Governor's budget on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

From what I understand, Governor Malloy has proposed to cut all funds that provide day programs for these individuals once they age out of the public school special education support system. When Patrick graduates from high school, he will need continued support to lead as independent a life as possible and to be employed. The proposed cuts are leaving my sister's family without a plan for Patrick's future. The proposed cuts will also leave many people who work with these individuals without a job.

Please restore funding for day and employment services for new graduates!
And please support the Governor's proposal to invest \$3.8 million in the ID Partnership which will help people on the DDS residential waiting list, support developing more residential options for people with I/DD and stabilize community based supports.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sasso

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